

THE FUTURE

What does the future hold for you? What does the future have in store for you? What is in store for your future? What is in the stars for you? What do the cards hold in store for you? These are all various ways of asking what one's future will be like. This is a subject that many people think about, and others obsess about. How often do you think about the future? Have you ever been to a **fortune teller**? What are some methods fortune tellers use to tell the future?

Time is something that man cannot change, but time certainly changes man. If you think about people who are 80-90 years old today, it's amazing what **drastic** changes they have seen in their lifetime. National borders have changed, two world wars were waged, transatlantic flights became routine, and the Internet has allowed unimaginable communication and freedom of information. What sort of changes do you **envision** in the next 50-60 years? Where will you be and what will you be doing in 10 years?

Technological advances change our lives. What do you consider the greatest technological advance that was made in your lifetime, and what technological advances do you think are likely to come to fruition in your lifetime?

A "futurist" is someone who thinks about the future in order to **formulate** academic or business practices which will be useful in the future. There are four basic approaches to the 'futurist' movement: Inactive, Reactive, Preactive, and Proactive.

An 'inactive' futurist is one who has a basically "don't mess with it" attitude. The future will get you there whether you do anything or not. Therefore, it's best to just "go with the flow", and you'll **end up** somewhere anyway.

A 'reactive' futurist thinks that the future is pretty much like the past. If you know about the past then, just **project** it forward and you'll tend to know about the future.

A 'preactive' futurist looks for trends on the social level and in the physical environment. When he or she sees one, he or she "rides" it (follows it).

Finally a 'proactive' futurist sees the wave (trend) coming and gets creative with it. This type of futurist notices a trend and comes up with a new idea which will develop or complement the trend. In doing so, proactive futurists attempt to 'shape' the future to their advantage.

Which type of futurist are you and why?



Fortune teller = [NOUN] a person who claims the ability to predict the future. [Both male and female]

Drastic = [ADJECTIVE] Severe or radical in nature; extreme. *[Wow Sarah! Just yesterday you had white hair, and today it is black. What a drastic color change!]*

To envision = [VERB] To imagine that something will happen in the future. [NOTE: British version is “envisage”] *[If you would have asked me 2 years ago before I came to Russia where I would be 2 years from then, I never would have envisioned that I would still be in Russia!]*

To formulate = [VERB] To develop something by thinking carefully about its details. *[He formulated a plan to improve the team's performance.]*

To end up = [VERB] To be in a place or state after doing something, or because of doing something. *[Somehow, they all ended up at my house! Keep on doing that, and you'll end up in jail!]*

To project (something) = [VERB] To calculate how big/important something will be in the future, using information available now. *[It is projected that the population will rise by 1.3 million in 2010.]*

TIME TRAVELING & CHANGING THE PAST/FUTURE

There have been several books and movies about the possibility of traveling through time. Which books have you read or which movies have you seen about this topic?

If a time machine really existed, would you use it? When/where would you go? Would you change something about your past? Would you find out about your future? Why or why not?

Do you think the invention of a time machine would be a good thing or a bad thing? Why?



[NOTE: “Traveling” (one L) is the American spelling - “Travelling” (two L's) is the British spelling]

Some people **regret** certain things that they have done in the past. Because of this, they would welcome the opportunity to travel back in time and correct their past mistakes. Can you think of some mistakes in your past that you would want to fix? Would you go back in time and fix them if you could?

To regret = [VERB] To feel sorry, sad, or guilty about something that has happened, or about something that you have done. *[When the airline companies make a mistake, they always use the same phrase: “We regret any inconvenience caused by the delay, and we look forward to serving you in the future. Thank you for flying _____ airlines!”] I regret telling Alex that he was stupid.....I found out later that he went home and cried for 3 hours.]* [NOTE: “Regret” is also the NOUN form which describes a feeling of sadness about something that has happened or something that you have done, OR this word as a noun describes the THING (usually action) that one regrets - “One of my regrets is that I didn't spend much time with my sister when we were younger.”]

QUIZ

[Another pop quiz!]

CONVERSATION

[The first conversation is taken from a scene from the movie, "BACK TO THE FUTURE 2"]

Griff: **I was framed!**

Doc: Why yes, yes of course! Because this hoverboard incident has now occurred, Griff now goes to jail. Therefore your son won't go with him tonight and that robbery will never take place. Thus history, future history, has now been altered and this is the proof! Marty, we've succeeded, not exactly as I'd planned but no matter.....Let's go get Jennifer and go home!

Marty: Bye Griff!

Doc: What's this?

Marty: It's uhhh....a souvenir....a book.

Doc: 50 years of Sports Statistics. That's hardly recreational reading material Marty.

Marty: Hey Doc, what's the harm of bringing back, er, a little info on the future? Thought maybe we could place a couple of bets.

Doc: Marty! I didn't invent the time machine for financial gain. The intent here is to gain a clear perception of humanity - where we've been, where we're going.....the **pitfalls** and the possibilities. The perils and the promise. Perhaps even an answer to that universal question - why?

Marty: Hey Doc, I'm all for that! What's wrong with making a few bucks on the side?

Doc: I am going to put this in the trash!



Vadim: Hey Alla.

Alla: Good afternoon, Vadim.

Katya: And what about me? Aren't you going to greet me, VaZim?

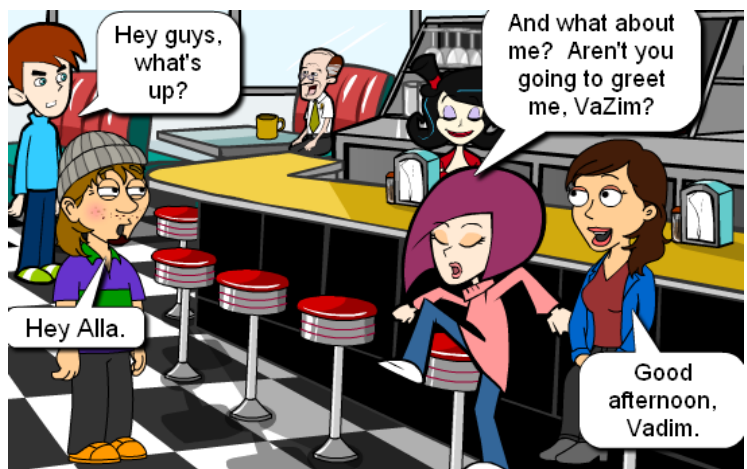
Vadim: Uggh, sorry Katya. I'm guess I'm just frustrated with all this extra spam that people keep sending me. It's making it difficult for me to get my work done.

Alla: I know what you mean, Vadim! Viktor keeps sending me all these stupid group invitations on VK. So annoying!

Katya: Yeah, that's incredibly annoying! I wish he would stop doing that! If I could go back in time, I never would have accepted his friend request.

Viktor: Hey guys, what's up?

Vadim: **Speak of the devil!**



Katya: Yes, there's the **perpetrator**!

Viktor: What? What are you talking about?

Alla: We're talking about all the spam that you're sending us on VK! It's unacceptable.

Katya: Yes, I insist that you stop.

Viktor: Oh, but those are very useful links. You can make a lot of money fast!

Alla: I don't believe that you are that **gullible**, Viktor.....

Viktor: But.....but.....

Vadim: Yeah, you at least could have made up a story that somebody hacked your account and was sending those invitations.....

Katya: Yeah, don't insult our intelligence.

Vadim: I'm going to un-friend you.

Alla: Me too.

Katya: Me three.

Viktor: I'm so sad. I guess I'll have to go to the club to make new friends!

To be framed (Passive Construction) = To frame someone with (something (the crime)) = [VERB]

To make someone seem to be guilty of a crime when they are not (for example, by lying to the police).

[In order to get revenge, Billy decided to frame John with the murder of his wife. He even stole John's gloves and put them next to his wife's dead body.]

Pitfall = [NOUN] An unapparent source of trouble or danger; a hidden hazard. *[John discovered only after he left the South that one of the pitfalls of living in New York City is that many of the people there are self-absorbed and rude.]*

“Speak of the devil!” = Phrase said when a group of people is talking about somebody, and then that person shows up/arrives at the same time. [NOTE: Despite the word 'devil' – this phrase is completely neutral.....you can be talking about good or bad things about the person when he/she arrives.]

Perpetrator = [NOUN] Someone who does something harmful, illegal, or dishonest. *[The perpetrator broke into John's house sometime after midnight and stole \$200 dollar from his nightstand.]*

Gullible = [ADJECTIVE] Easily tricked; Believing almost anything quickly and without proof/evidence. *[Sally is so gullible that she paid \$20 for a hot dog because the vendor told her that it was the last hot dog in New York City.]*

Just Speak!



Check out ER Movies (where you can watch movies with subtitles)

Written by Bunny



Designed by Vadim

